



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Press Release

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Cal/EPA Secretary Issues Statement on Departure of DTSC Director

*Adams Commends Director Maureen Gorsen for Her Visionary
Leadership, Appoints Maziar Movassaghi Acting Director*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Linda Adams issued the following statement today in response to the resignation of Maureen Gorsen, Director of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). DTSC is the state department that regulates toxic substances that affect public health and the environment:

“Maureen has been instrumental in California’s most recent environmental initiatives related to green chemistry, consumer product safety and environmental enforcement.

Most significantly, Maureen has led the Governor’s Green Chemistry Initiative – California’s effort to remove toxic substances from products. Thanks to her tireless leadership, a coalition of state departments developed a report with six innovative policy proposals to significantly reduce the amount of toxic chemicals used in products and manufacturing processes.

“Prior to joining DTSC, Maureen, as a Cal/EPA Deputy, played a significant role in implementing the Governor’s Environmental Enforcement Initiative which has helped ensure that California companies are taking environmental laws seriously, and that those who break the laws are held accountable.

“Maureen’s vision for the Department on how they move forward implementing this new era of environmental change has been extraordinary. We’ll miss her passion and her extensive understanding of toxics in our consumer economy. I thank her for the outstanding service that she’s provided to California and this Agency.”

Secretary Adams appointed Maziar Movassaghi as Acting Director of DTSC effective March 16, 2009. Maziar currently serves a Deputy Director of Site Mitigation and Brownsfield Reuse Programs for DTSC. Movassaghi previously worked for the City of Oakland as Assistant Development Director and Assistant to Mayor Jerry Brown. Prior to working for the City of Oakland, he was the Wetlands Program Coordinator for the State of California. He is a graduate of University of California, Los Angeles and the

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Goldman School at University of California, Berkeley.

“Until a permanent replacement is found, Maziar will provide the Department with continuity, and I’m confident that he will continue to carry out the vision of the Department as it moves forward during this time.”

DTSC is one of six boards, departments and offices that make up Cal/EPA. The mission of DTSC is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.

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